

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 27, 30, 33, and 36, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and amend claims 1, 3, 8, 15, 22-26, 28, 31, and 34 as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for illuminant compensation of an image including a face region comprising:

determining a surface fitting based on the face region for the image using a linear model;  
generating an illuminant corrected image using the surface fitting and the image; and  
normalizing the image.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the image includes a plurality of pixels, each having a color, and wherein the step of determining the surface fitting includes the substeps of:

determining for each pixel whether the pixel's color is within a predetermined set of colors;

determining the pixel to be part of the face region if it is determined that the pixel's color is within the predetermined set of colors; and

determining a surface fitting for the image, wherein the surface fitting is determined using only the pixels that were determined to be part of the face region.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~2, wherein the step of determining whether the pixel's color is within a predetermined set of colors includes determining if the pixel's color is a skin color.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the illuminant corrected image is generated by subtracting the surface fitting from the image.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the image includes a plurality of pixels each having a gray level, and wherein the step of normalizing the image, comprises the substeps of:

computing an average gray level for the plurality of pixels in the image;

computing a standard deviation of the gray level for the plurality of pixels in the image;

and

transforming the gray level for each pixel of the plurality of pixels to a gray level ~~between~~ within a predetermined range using the computed average gray level and the computed standard deviation.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of normalizing the image further comprises the substeps of:

determining for each of the plurality of pixels whether the pixel is part of the face region in the image;

wherein in the step of computing the average gray level for the plurality of pixels, only the pixels that are determined to be part of the face region are used in computing the average gray level; and

wherein in the step of computing the standard deviation, only the pixels that are determined to be part of the face region are used in computing the standard deviation.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of determining whether a pixel is part of the face region includes determining whether the pixel is a color within a predetermined set of colors.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for illuminant compensation of an image including a face region comprising:

a memory; and

a processor;

wherein the memory stores a program that is operative with the processor to perform the following steps:

determining a surface fitting based on the face region for the image using a linear model;

generating an illuminant corrected image using the surface fitting and the image;

and

normalizing the image.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the image includes a plurality of pixels, each having a color, and wherein the step of determining the surface fitting includes the substeps of:

determining for each pixel whether the pixel's color is within a predetermined set of colors;

determining the pixel to be part of the face region if it is determined that it is within the predetermined set of colors;

determining a surface fitting for the image, wherein the surface fitting is determined using only the pixels that were determined to be part of the face region.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the substeps of determining whether the pixel's color is within a predetermined set of colors includes determining if the pixel's color is a skin color.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein in the step of generating the illuminant corrected image, the illuminant corrected image is generated by subtracting the surface fitting from the image.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the image includes a plurality of pixels each having a gray level, and wherein the step of normalizing the image, comprises the substeps of:

computing an average gray level for the plurality of pixels in the image;

computing a standard deviation of the gray level for the plurality of pixels in the image;  
and

transforming the gray level for each pixel of the plurality of pixels to a gray level  
~~between~~ within a predetermined range using the computed average gray level and the computed  
standard deviation.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the step of normalizing the image further  
comprises the substeps of:

determining for each of the plurality of pixels whether the pixel is part of the face region  
in the image;

wherein in the step of computing the average gray level for the plurality of pixels, only  
the pixels that are determined to be part of the face region are used in computing the average  
gray level; and

wherein in the step of computing the standard deviation, only the pixels that are  
determined to be part of the face region are used in computing the standard deviation.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the step of determining whether a pixel  
is part of the face region includes determining whether the pixel is a color within a  
predetermined set of colors.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for illuminant  
compensation of an image including a face region, wherein the program is operative with a  
processor to perform a method comprising the steps of

determining a surface fitting based on the face region for the image using a linear model;  
generating an illuminant corrected image using the surface fitting and the image; and  
normalizing the image.

16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the image includes a plurality of pixels, each having a color, and wherein the step of determining the surface fitting includes the substeps of:

determining for each pixel whether the pixel's color is within a predetermined set of colors;

determining the pixel to be part of the face region if it is determined that the pixel's color is within a predetermined set of colors; and

determining a surface fitting for the image, wherein the surface fitting is determined using only the pixels that were determined to be part of the face region.

17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the substep of determining whether the pixel's color is within a predetermined range includes determining if the pixel's color is a skin color.

18. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein in the step of generating the illuminant corrected image, the illuminant corrected image is generated by subtracting the surface fitting from the image.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the image includes a plurality of pixels each having a gray level, and wherein the step of normalizing the image, comprises the substeps of:

computing an average gray level for the plurality of pixels in the image;

computing a standard deviation of the gray level for the plurality of pixels in the image;

and

transforming the gray level for each pixel of the plurality of pixels to a gray level ~~between~~ within a predetermined range using the computed average gray level and the computed standard deviation.

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the step of normalizing the image further comprises the substeps of:

determining for each of the plurality of pixels whether the pixel is part of the face region in the image;

wherein in the step of computing the average gray level for the plurality of pixels, only the pixels that are determined to be part of the face region are used in computing the average gray level; and

wherein in the step of computing the standard deviation, only the pixels that are determined to be part of the face region are used in computing the standard deviation.

21. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein the step of determining whether a pixel is part of the face region includes determining whether the pixel is a color within a predetermined set of colors.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for illuminant compensation of an image including a face region comprising:

means for determining a surface fitting based on the face region for the image using a linear model;

means for generating an illuminant corrected image using the surface fitting and the image; and

means for normalizing the image.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a surface fitting for an image that includes a plurality of pixels each having a color, and wherein the image includes a face region, comprising the steps of:

determining for each pixel whether the pixel's color is within a predetermined set of colors;

determining the pixel to be part of the face region if it is determined that the pixel's color is within the predetermined set of colors; and

determining a surface fitting for the image using a linear model, wherein the surface fitting is determined using only the pixels that were determined to be part of the face region.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for determining a surface fitting for an image that includes a plurality of pixels each having a color, and wherein the image includes a face region, comprising:

a memory; and



a processor;

wherein the memory stores a program that is operative with a processor to perform a method comprising the steps of:

determining for each pixel whether the pixel's color is within a predetermined set of colors;

determining the pixel to be part of the face region if it is determined that the pixel's color is within the predetermined set of colors; and

determining a surface fitting for the image using a linear model, wherein the surface fitting is determined using only the pixels that were determined to be part of the face region.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program that is operative with a processor to perform method for determining a surface fitting for an image that includes a plurality of pixels each having a color, and wherein the image includes a face region, comprising the steps of:

determining for each pixel whether the pixel's color is within a predetermined set of colors;

determining the pixel to be part of the face region if it is determined that the pixel's color is within the predetermined set of colors; and

determining a surface fitting for the image using a linear model, wherein the surface fitting is determined using only the pixels that were determined to be part of the face region.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for determining a surface fitting using a linear model for an image that includes a plurality of pixels each having a color, and wherein the image includes a face region, comprising:

means for determining for each pixel whether the pixel's color is within a predetermined set of colors;

means for determining the pixel to be part of the face region if it is determined that the pixel's color is within the predetermined set of colors; and

means for determining a surface fitting for the image, wherein the surface fitting is determined using only the pixels that were determined to be part of the face region.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 27, further comprising~~ A method for image normalization of an image that includes a plurality of pixels each having a gray level, comprising the steps of:

determining for each of the plurality of pixels whether the pixel is part of a face region in the image;

~~wherein in the step of~~ computing an average gray level for the plurality of pixels [[,]] in the image using only the pixels that are determined to be part of the face region ~~are used in computing the average gray level; and~~

~~wherein in the step of~~ computing a standard deviation [[,]] of the gray level for the plurality of pixels in the image using only the pixels that are determined to be part of the face region ~~are used in computing the standard deviation; and~~

transforming the gray level for each pixel of the plurality of pixels to a gray level within a predetermined range using the computed average gray level and the computed standard deviation.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of determining whether a pixel is part of the face region includes determining whether the pixel has a skin color.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 30, wherein the method further comprises the steps of~~ A system for image normalization of an image that includes a plurality of pixels each having a gray level, comprising:

a memory;

a processor;

wherein the memory stores a program that is operative with a processor to perform a method comprising the steps of:

determining for each of the plurality of pixels whether the pixel is part of a face region in the image;

~~wherein in the step of~~ computing an average gray level for the plurality of pixels ~~[[,]] in the image using only the pixels that are determined to be part of the face region are used in computing the average gray level; and~~

~~wherein in the step of~~ computing a standard deviation ~~[[,]]~~of the gray level for the plurality of pixels in the image using only the pixels that are determined to be part of the face region~~are used in computing the standard deviation;~~ and  
transforming the gray level for each pixel of the plurality of pixels to a gray level within a predetermined range using the computed average gray level and the computed standard deviation.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the step of determining whether a pixel is part of the face region includes determining whether the pixel is a color within the predetermined set of colors.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 30, wherein the method further comprises the steps of~~A computer readable medium storing a program that is operative with a processor to perform a method for image normalization of an image that includes a plurality of pixels each having a gray level, comprising the steps of:

determining for each of the plurality of pixels whether the pixel is part of a face region in the image;

~~wherein in the step of~~ computing an average gray level for the plurality of pixels~~[[,]]~~ in the image using only the pixels that are determined to be part of the face region~~are used in computing the average gray level; and~~

~~wherein in the step of~~ computing a standard deviation ~~[[,]]~~of the gray level for the  
plurality of pixels in the image using only the pixels that are determined to be part of the face  
region ~~are used in computing the standard deviation;~~ and

transforming the gray level for each pixel of the plurality of pixels to a gray level within a  
predetermined range using the computed average gray level and the computed standard  
deviation.

35. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the step of  
determining whether a pixel is part of the face region includes determining whether the pixel's  
color is within a predetermined set of colors.

36. (Cancelled)